

WORKFORCE OBSERVATIONS FOR WESTERN WISCONSIN COUNTIES

APRIL 2003



In All Six Western Counties, Unemployment Rates Decline in March

March Local Labor Scene

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for the **La Crosse Metropolitan Area** held steady at 4.1 percent for the third straight month in March. However, the March 2003 rate declined by 0.2 percentage points as compared to the La Crosse Metro rate for March 2002.

The unadjusted unemployment rate for Western Wisconsin fell 0.3 percentage points in March, to 6.1 percent. Additionally, the Western Wisconsin unadjusted rate fell by 0.6 percentage points compared to last March, on the strength of strong year-to-year decreases in unadjusted unemployment rates across the region. Unadjusted unemployment rates in the five county Non-Metropolitan Area decreased by almost a full percent as compared to last March.

cent. With the exception of Juneau and Marquette, all were counties in the northern third of the state.

Dane County had the state's lowest unemployment rate at 3.1 percent. La Crosse and Waukesha had rates of 4.9 percent and Ozaukee came in at 4.4 percent. Forty-eight of the state's counties had lower rates in March of 2003 than they had in March of 2002, while 18 had higher rates and six counties were unchanged from one year ago.

While manufacturing for the state continued to see overall job losses in February to March figures, there were areas of the state that experienced improvement. The La Crosse, Appleton/Oshkosh, Janesville/Beloit, Madison, and Wausau Metropolitan Statistical Areas all experienced some in-

creases in manufacturing jobs. The Milwaukee/Waukesha Metropolitan Statistical Area saw continued job loss in the manufacturing sector.

In the year-to-date comparison, seven of the state's metropolitan statistical areas saw improvement over last March figures. Appleton-

Oshkosh, Eau Claire, Green Bay, Janesville-Beloit, La Crosse, Sheboygan and Wausau all saw improvement.

The Kenosha and Racine areas experienced slight increases, while the Madison and Milwaukee-Waukesha MSAs saw no changes. In the monthly comparison, seven of Wisconsin's metropolitan statistical areas saw higher seasonally adjusted unemployment rates in March than they had in February and four were unchanged.

Statewide

Thirty-five of Wisconsin's 72 counties had lower unemployment rates in March than they had experienced in February. Twenty-five had higher rates, and 12 saw no change, according to information released today by the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD).

"Most of the counties with the highest unemployment rates in March are northern counties that were undoubtedly affected by the lack of snow and its affect on winter-related activities," said DWD Secretary Roberta Gassman. "Despite the lack of snow, 48 Wisconsin counties and seven of the state's 11 metropolitan areas had improved unemployment rates over last year."

Twelve counties in the state reported rates above 10 per-

Labor Force Estimates (Seasonally Adjusted)			
	La Crosse * MSA	Wisconsin (000s)	United States (000s)
Current month: Mar 2003			
Civilian Labor Force	74,800	3,106.9	145,793
Employment	71,800	2,936.4	137,348
Unemployment	3,100	170.6	8,445
Unemployment rate	4.1%	5.5%	5.8%
Change from one month ago			
Civilian Labor Force	-500	0.5	(64)
Employment	-500	160.6	(60)
Unemployment	0	5.3	(5)
Unemployment rate	0.0%	0.2%	0.0%
Change from one year ago			
Civilian Labor Force	100	69.0	1,426
Employment	300	71.9	1,205
Unemployment	-100	-2.8	221
Unemployment rate	-0.2%	-0.2%	0.1%
<i>Note: All estimates are preliminary and based on place of residence.</i>			
<i>* La Crosse MSA Statistics include Houston County Minnesota</i>			

Western Wisconsin Workforce Development Area

March 2003	Buffalo	Crawford	Jackson	Juneau	Lacrosse	Monroe	Trempealeau	Vernon	Region	Non MSA*	Wisconsin
Civilian Labor Force**	7,550	10,540	11,840	11,000	64,060	21,120	16,490	14,580	157,180	93,120	3,082,240
Employed	7,070	9,720	11,030	9,740	60,940	19,830	15,200	13,560	147,090	86,150	2,882,260
Unemployed	490	830	800	1,260	3,120	1,290	1,280	1,020	10,090	6,960	199,980
Unemployment Rate	6.4%	7.8%	6.8%	11.4%	4.9%	6.1%	7.8%	7.0%	6.4%	7.5%	6.5%
Total Nonfarm (NFWS) ***	4,900	7,700	8,100	8,800	72,300	17,800	13,400	8,400	141,400	69,100	2,739,600
Total Private	4,000	6,600	5,100	6,600	61,500	13,300	11,000	6,200	114,200	52,700	2,313,700
Goods Producing	400	1,600	1,400	2,400	12,000	4,000	5,700	1,100	28,700	16,700	618,300
Service Producing	4,500	6,200	6,700	6,400	60,300	13,700	7,700	7,200	112,700	52,400	2,121,300
Constr., Mining & Nat.Rsrcs	140	210	630	230	2,300	470	200	180	4,300	2,100	102,600
Manufacturing	300	1,400	800	2,200	9,600	3,600	5,500	900	24,200	14,600	515,700
Trade	500	2,000	900	1,100	12,900	2,500	1,500	1,700	23,100	10,200	422,400
Transportation & Utilities	1,800	200	800	400	2,200	1,600	500	300	7,800	5,600	307,400
Financial Activities	160	200	230	240	3,700	610	340	370	5,800	2,100	153,400
Education and Health Services	600	1,100	600	1,200	13,100	1,700	1,100	1,500	20,800	7,700	363,100
Leisure & Hospitality	400	800	800	800	6,800	1,500	900	600	12,700	5,900	226,600
Info., Prof. & Bus. Svcs, Other Svcs	200	600	300	500	10,800	1,300	1,000	600	15,400	4,600	942,200
Total Government	910	1,170	3,030	2,200	10,800	4,460	2,410	2,200	27,200	16,400	425,900
Federal	150	70	60	260	500	2,170	130	110	3,450	2,950	28,900
State	20	200	450	570	2,800	240	30	30	4,330	1,530	102,900
Local	740	900	2,520	1,370	7,500	2,050	2,260	2,060	19,380	11,880	294,100
Change from one month ago	February 2003										
Civilian Labor Force**	10	110	220	20	400	120	140	170	1,200	800	77,500
Employed	30	120	230	50	500	150	160	190	1,500	900	36,400
Unemployed	-20	-10	-20	-30	-200	-30	-20	-20	-300	-100	41,100
Unemployment rate(%)	-0.3	-0.2	-0.3	-0.3	-0.2	-0.2	-0.2	-0.2	-0.3	-0.2	1.2
Total Nonfarm (NFWS) ***	90	-70	110	30	700	300	170	90	1,400	700	18,300
Percent change NFWS from last month	1.8%	-0.9%	1.4%	0.4%	1.0%	1.7%	1.3%	1.1%	1.0%	1.1%	0.7%
Total Private	80	-70	100	0	-200	200	80	30	200	400	-3,600
Goods Producing	10	-20	0	0	-100	100	0	20	0	100	-10,800
Service Producing	80	-50	100	0	800	300	170	70	1,400	600	29,100
Constr., Mining & Nat.Rsrcs	10	10	40	10	-200	-20	10	0	-200	100	-5,900
Manufacturing	0	-30	0	0	0	70	-10	20	100	100	-4,900
Trade	0	-60	0	0	0	90	-20	10	0	0	-3,300
Transportation & Utilities	50	10	40	0	0	70	60	0	200	200	-3,700
Financial Activities	0	0	-10	0	0	-10	0	0	0	0	200
Education and Health Services	-10	-10	10	0	300	0	-10	-10	300	0	5,100
Leisure & Hospitality	30	10	10	0	0	20	10	0	0	0	800
Svcs	0	10	10	10	-400	0	20	0	-300	100	9,200
Total Government	10	0	50	20	900	80	90	70	1,200	300	21,900
Federal	10	0	0	0	0	10	0	10	0	0	0
State	0	0	0	0	800	0	0	0	800	0	11,000
Local	0	-10	50	20	100	70	90	60	400	300	10,900
Change from one year ago	March 2002										
Civilian Labor Force**	-110	420	230	30	1,000	490	1,190	620	3,900	2,900	67,400
Employed	-50	400	330	190	1,200	610	1,220	710	4,600	3,400	69,200
Unemployed	-60	30	-100	-160	-100	-120	-30	-100	-700	-500	-1,700
Unemployment rate(%)	-0.7	-0.1	-1.0	-1.5	-0.3	-0.7	-0.8	-1.0	-0.6	-0.8	-0.2
Total Nonfarm (NFWS) ***	-50	170	80	-20	0	230	870	310	1,600	1,600	3,800
Percent change NFWS from last year	-1.0%	2.3%	1.0%	-0.2%	0.0%	1.3%	7.0%	3.9%	1.1%	2.4%	0.1%
Total Private	-40	120	0	0	700	400	800	200	2,200	1,500	4,100
Goods Producing	10	-200	0	-300	0	100	400	100	200	100	-20,400
Service Producing	-60	380	100	300	0	100	400	300	1,400	1,500	24,200
Constr., Mining & Nat.Rsrcs	0	0	-20	-10	-200	30	20	-10	-200	0	-8,700
Manufacturing	10	-210	0	-300	100	90	430	60	200	100	-11,600
Trade	-30	70	0	0	100	130	90	120	500	400	-2,100
Transportation & Utilities	-30	10	0	50	0	50	40	30	100	100	-3,900
Financial Activities	0	10	-10	10	0	20	30	20	100	100	1,800
Education and Health Services	-10	50	0	100	600	100	30	-20	800	200	10,000
Leisure & Hospitality	30	170	100	200	0	80	190	40	800	800	4,200
Svcs	-10	20	-100	0	-100	-70	-50	-50	-300	-200	21,100
Total Government	-10	50	70	10	-710	-200	100	110	-600	100	-300
Federal	0	0	0	0	-110	-120	0	0	-200	-100	-700
State	0	10	40	10	-110	-10	0	0	-100	0	300
Local	-10	40	30	-10	-530	-80	100	120	-300	200	100

* Seven counties, excluding La Crosse County ** Includes participants residing in area. *** Includes employment with employers located in area. Estimates are NOT seasonally adjusted. Current month estimates are preliminary. Totals may not add due to rounding. Calculations based on unrounded numbers. NFWS data is benchmarked to 3/2002

Look for the most current Labor Market Information at: <http://www.dwd.state.wi.us/lmi/>

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